

APPENDIX B COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

STUBBO SOLAR FARM

Stakeholder and Community Engagement Strategy



20 November 2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Review of engagement for Stubbo Solar Farm

The Stubbo Solar Farm project site is located in the Mid-Western Regional Council, in the NSW Central West and is part of UPC\AC Renewables Australia (**UPC**) wider objectives to develop renewable resources in the area east of Dubbo in the NSW Central West. This aligns with the stated NSW Government's plans relating to the Central West-Orana NSW Renewable Energy Zone (**REZ**).

This document forms part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

UPC acknowledges that community & stakeholder engagement is ongoing and as such, this version of the document relates only to engagement practices which have preceded the lodgement of the project EIS. Detailed records will continue to be kept throughout development of the project (including construction and operation).

The different stages of project development are as follows:

1. Feasibility assessment: community & stakeholder engagement consists of initiating discussions with participating landholders as well as initial discussions with key stakeholders such as DPIE or local Councils;
2. Development (including on-site and desktop assessment, preparation and lodgement of the EIS, and pre-construction works): community & stakeholder engagement activities aim to establish good communication with a maximum number of close neighbours and members of the broader community as well as all stakeholders;
3. Construction and commissioning: on-going consultation with the community focusing on addressing issues that may arise during construction; and
4. Operation & maintenance.

At the time of publication, its principal conclusions are that:

- UPC has focussed on four areas of stakeholder consultation:
 - Engagement with government and regulatory stakeholders to inform, advocate and gain feedback about the initial project plan;
 - local landowner consultation to secure a legal interest in agricultural land for the solar asset;
 - targeted consultation with nearby landowners (within two kilometres of the Study Area) to understand the concerns and potential impacts of the solar farm on near neighbours; and
 - wider community engagement to communicate potential community benefits resulting from the project, understand community concerns, and inform the community about the potential impacts and benefits of the project & listen to their feedback, as well as gauge public sentiment more broadly towards the project.
- UPC emphasises the fact that community engagement is an ongoing process and undertakes to continue to engage with relevant parties as the project continues through the development process.

UPC acknowledges the work of its consultant, RPS Group, for their initial assistance in drafting an early version of this document, which has since been significantly modified.

Feedback summary at the time of EIS lodgement

The consultation and engagement that has taken place to date (November 2020) has been with Government & public agencies and other relevant stakeholders, host landowners, neighbouring landowners, and the broader community. To summarise:

1. *The Stubbo Solar Farm has effectively consulted with State and Local Government agencies*
 - There is general support from government agencies, and local government for the Stubbo Solar Farm and the wider program of renewables in the region – comprising wind, solar, pumped hydro, and gas generation, together with battery storage.
 - UPC has proposed a community benefit share fund and has initiated discussions with the broader community, Council and the NSW Government. The final strategy will be presented to all relevant stakeholders before construction commencing
 - NSW Transmission Network Service Provider, TransGrid, has been engaged from a very early stage. The workstream of assessing the ability for the project to connect to the existing electrical transmission network is ongoing.
2. *Associated “host” landowners have worked collaboratively with UPC throughout the Development process*
 - UPC has worked closely with the host landowners throughout the development process and preparation of the EIS.
 - These landowners were approached by UPC initially and agreed to a commercial arrangement to lease or sell land to UPC to form the project Study Area and Development Footprint.
 - All landowners have been very accommodating, allowing a wide variety of on-site survey & assessment and have been in regular contact with UPC through a dedicated landowner liaison manager.
 - Landowners were regularly asked to provide feedback, which was considered and has resulted in several modifications to the plans and development footprint to accommodate their ongoing needs.
3. *Neighbouring landowners have been informed and given the opportunity to comment and request further information*
 - UPC dedicated a great deal of time and effort to ensuring that every landowner within a 2km radius of the site, and potential sensitive receptors within 5km of the site were informed about the project throughout the development process, and given the opportunity to give direct feedback to UPC.
 - The measures used by UPC included:
 - Early establishment (April 2020) of a detailed and publicly available website at www.stubbosolarfarm.com.au, Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StubboSolarFarm>), email address (stubbo@upc-ac.com) and project telephone hotline (1800 571 185) which were constantly monitored and regularly updated;
 - Several mailouts and emails containing maps, fact sheets, project updates and contact information;
 - Telephone and in-person conversations with a number of local landowners; and
 - Council assistance to ensure that nearby residents who UPC had not heard from received a letter and fact sheet about the project, as well as contact details. Nearby

residents were encouraged to contact UPC if they had any concerns or wanted further information, which was always provided in a transparent and collaborative manner.

4. *The wider community has been informed and given the opportunity to provide feedback*

- The project website and Facebook page went live at an early stage of project development (April 2020), and were both publicly available and regularly updated.
- Members of the local community who had previously expressed concerns about other solar farms or infrastructure projects in the area were directly approached prior to public announcement. UPC provided detailed information in a transparent manner with the intention of understanding whether they had specific concerns about the project or about solar farms more broadly. These stakeholders were also encouraged to provide this information to like-minded members of the community and were encouraged to contact UPC directly with any concerns.
- Community information drop-in session:
 - On 28 October 2020, between 2pm and 7pm, a community information drop-in session was held at the Country Women's Association (**CWA**) Hall on Herbert Street, Gulgong. The session was advertised in the Mudgee Guardian, Dunedoo District Diary, 2MG Radio Mudgee (10 on-air "read outs" in the lead up to the event), via a flyer on the community noticeboard at Stacks Gulgong, as well as updates on the project website and Facebook page advertising the session. Covid-19 restrictions in place in NSW at the time were strictly observed during the session.
 - Individual invitations were sent to everyone who had subscribed for project updates via our website, as well as directly to near neighbours who we knew had an interest in the project.
 - The CWA Hall was setup with pull up banners outside the hall to advertised to pedestrians, and inside we erected eight A0-sized posters (see Appendix B) containing information about the project, including detailed information about the Development stage, the technology proposed to be used, and the benefits to the community. Detailed maps showing the project site and traffic routes were also on display. Detailed fact sheets were also available for attendees to take with them.
 - There were five UPC representatives and two representatives from the planning consultants, Ramboll, in attendance. Throughout the day, approximately 40 people attended to review the information provided, ask questions, and give feedback to the project team.
 - the discussion focussed on the benefits of renewable energy, employment opportunities for local workers and businesses as well as potential visual impact from the solar panels, the proposed environmental exclusion zone and traffic flows and access routes.
 - The feedback was taken as a key input into the finalisation of the Environmental Impact Statement for the project.
- As a result of feedback received at the information session, further workforce & accommodation availability assessment will be included in the EIS:
 - This will involve additional desktop assessment as well as further consultation with Mid-Western Regional Council, Mudgee Tourist Information Centre, training and recruitment providers, real estate agents, short-term accommodation providers and hospitality workers.

- This will help determine the skills capabilities in the local and regional workforce and potential training requirements to help provide more employment opportunities for local workers and businesses.
- In addition, an assessment of accommodation requirements and availability will also be conducted.
- numerous community members raised concern that the option to access project site from the western boundary via Black Lead Lane and Barneys Reef Road would impact dwellings and create additional traffic in and around the Gulgong Town Centre during construction. As a result, approval is being sought for use of the western access for emergency traffic only.

5. *Energy and mining organisations*

- The NSW Transmission Network Service Provider, TransGrid, has been consulted from an early stage regarding the ability for the project to connect to the existing 330kV transmission line.
- There is a formal process which is dictated by TransGrid which must be followed in order to receive an offer to connect to the line. This application and its associated studies are currently underway.
- UPC sent a notification letter to Hunter Gas, containing a plan of the project site and additional information, in accordance with a request from DPIE.

1 OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

UPC is an experienced developer of large-scale renewable energy assets both in Australia and overseas.

The Company's experience has dictated that effective community & stakeholder engagement must be undertaken from an early stage, in an open and transparent manner, and should be resourced accordingly. UPC's business model of being an owner/operator of generating assets reinforces this approach, as it is imperative that the business is a trusted part of the community for a long period of time.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to present a detailed account of the community & stakeholder engagement strategy and practices which have been undertaken in support of the Stubbo Solar Farm EIS.

1.3 Objectives

A summary of the objectives, actions, and outcomes of the Stakeholder and Community Engagement Strategy was as follows:

Objective	Action	Outcome
Identify relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct stakeholder mapping exercise at an early stage• Use discussions with stakeholders to identify additional interested parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compiled detailed register of stakeholders and interested parties• Generated initial support for the proposal
Make initial contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employ different methodologies, including mail outs, phone calls, meetings and community sessions• Ensure sufficient information is in the public realm to facilitate word-of-mouth communication within community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact made with the majority of interested parties
Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct methods such as targeted mailouts, emails, meeting and phone calls• Passive methods such as early establishment of website, Facebook page, public advertising, and community information session• Utilise public bodies and prominent community members to disseminate information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regularly updated the project website and Facebook page• Received a number of phone calls and emails from stakeholders who had heard about the project and had specific questions• Held a well-attended community information session in the local town• Issued project updates by email & post

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate subscription for project updates via the website 	
Seek feedback and respond to comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage feedback through dedicated project email address and telephone hotline which were constantly monitored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback was received which resulted in provision of information, phone calls, or meetings Some concerns raised at the Community Information Session resulted in amendments to preliminary EIS plans
Maintain & record continuing engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed Stakeholder Engagement Register was maintained throughout the development process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The register is annexed to this document and will continue to be updated throughout the remainder of the project's development cycle.

2 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

UPC has developed an extensive and comprehensive stakeholder list of organisations and individuals, with stakeholders categorised into sub-groups based on organisation or individual type.

2.1 Stakeholder mapping & identification

One of the primary reasons that the project site was selected is that it has relatively few neighbours, and even fewer nearby residences who have potential to receive amenity impacts as a result of the project.

Despite this, UPC understands that a development such as this is of interest to the local community and has the potential to impact people, especially near neighbours.

With this in mind, UPC prioritised detailed and targeted consultation with nearby neighbours and local landowners. This included:

- Undertaking a detailed GIS mapping exercise to determine the registered proprietors of neighbouring properties within 2km of the project site, and the location of associated dwellings;
- Searches of publicly available databases and consultation with host landowners to obtain contact details for the identified neighbours;
- Contacting identified neighbours by post, phone, and/or email (where available). Once the study area was established, detailed letters were posted on 29 April 2020 and 19 August 2020, containing information about the status of the project, including a map clearly showing the location of the project study area, as well as a project fact sheet; and
- An additional mapping exercise to identify residences within a 5km radius which may have a viewshed of the project and mailouts to those landowners.

3 IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSULTATION STRATEGY

During each stage of the project's development, UPC has had a proactive and transparent approach to consultation with stakeholders, which increased throughout the development process.

UPC's business model of being an owner/operator of large-scale renewable energy assets means that the business is responsible from the project from inception through to delivery and operation. This is a material incentive for the company to maintain a positive relationship with the host landowners and respond to their feedback, as well as that of neighbours and other key stakeholders.

3.1 Implementation

The focus of the implementation strategy has been on discussions with key members of government, industry, host landowners, nearby residents, and the broader community. UPC has undertaken the following activities with stakeholders:

- Face to face meetings with landowners on an individual and group basis;
- Face to face meetings with key stakeholders such as government departments;
- Telephone calls;
- Provision of letters and emails containing information and fact sheets to nearby residents;
- Creation of a public website & Facebook page which are regularly updated;
- Monitoring of a dedicated project hotline and email address to receive feedback from the public; and
- Community Information drop-in session which was advertised via print media, radio, website, Facebook, email and flyers.

Stakeholder	Engagement Activities	Consultation Achievement
Government departments, MPs, local government, agencies and organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the project and broader strategy • Provide regular information & project updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform relevant authorities, agencies and organisations • Open a line of communication between stakeholder and UPC • Consultation with these parties is ongoing
Involved "host" landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce project proposal • Discuss strategy, impacts and benefits • Refine final project site and negotiate land security documents • Maintain regular communication including providing information and seeking feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved land security for the project Study Area • Continued involvement in the project by providing feedback
Nearby landowners (within 2km of Study Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder mapping exercise undertaken to identify all landowners • Several mailouts containing project information and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct contact (phone, email or face to face) with the majority of near neighbours • Where UPC was either unable to contact a nearby

	<p>contact details to get in touch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face to face meetings where possible 	<p>neighbour or unsure if they had received previous information, the Mid-Western Regional Council was engaged to assist by sending a letter on behalf of UPC to the stakeholder</p>
Targeted landowners within 5km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder mapping exercise to identify relevant landowners who may be impacted by or have an interest in the project • Several mailouts containing project information and contact details to get in touch • Face to face meetings where possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct contact (phone, email or meeting) with numerous local landowners • Where UPC was either unable to contact a targeted landowner or unsure if they had received previous information, the Mid-Western Regional Council was engaged to assist by sending a letter on behalf of UPC to the stakeholder
Broader community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early establishment of website, Facebook page, email and hotline • Regular updates published and emailed • A well-advertised community information session was held prior to submission of the EIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receipt of feedback from the broader community which was incorporated into the draft EIS.
Consultants and Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a close dialogue with its consultants, particularly ecologists and archaeologists, to fully understand the constraints of the site • Consultation with Aboriginal groups and individuals holding a cultural knowledge of the project Study Area has followed the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (ACHCRs) (DECCW 2010). • UPC met informally with representatives from the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) who were involved in the cultural heritage assessment, to answer questions, give a broad overview of the plans for the project, and seek advice on specific design issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological and cultural heritage constraints of the site were well understood by UPC and have been avoided to the extent possible

UPC prioritised contacting (or attempting to contact) nearby (within 2km) project neighbours as well as targeted residents within a 5km range of the project site.

Where UPC was unable to make contact with a near neighbour, assistance was requested from Mid-Western Regional Council, which was identified as a key resource for community consultation due to their local presence, knowledge of the area, and experience with several recent large-scale solar projects in the area.

In the interests of protecting the privacy of the near neighbour Council contacted the relevant landowners via mail on behalf of UPC, on or about 19 August 2020.

All interactions were documented in a detailed consultation register. A summarised and redacted version, to maintain stakeholder privacy, is provided below and corresponds with the map at Appendix A.

The Council-assisted mailout served to reach several key neighbours who had not received earlier correspondence, and which prompted some of them to contact UPC via the dedicated project hotline or email address. In response, UPC answered questions via telephone and email, and organised to meet with these landowners as soon as possible (where Covid-19 travel restrictions allowed).

Despite the Council-assisted mailout and UPC's best endeavours, several local landowners did not respond to UPC's communications. It is not known whether they did not receive the information or whether they chose not to provide feedback. However, attempts to make contact with these landowners will continue throughout the EIS process and at later stages of the Development.

3.2 Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 restrictions in place in NSW in 2020 have had limited impacts on development activities, including community consultation activities. At the peak of restrictions (March-June 2020), all activities were being undertaken by mail, phone or videoconferences, with no physical presence of UPC representatives on site.

When restrictions eased later in the year, UPC carried out on-site consultation activities where appropriate, obeying strict social distancing measures, and proposing alternative options such as phone or video calls.

3.3 Consultation summary

The summary table below details UPC's extensive consultation with specific stakeholders.

Feedback recorded indicates that Government stakeholders are generally supportive, and nearby residents and the wider community have been either ambivalent to the project or have indicated concerns which were taken into account by UPC through the project development process.

Summary of early engagement activities

Stakeholder	Engagement activities	Consultation outcomes
Mid-Western Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meeting on 4 February 2020 to provide a general update on the project and discuss project timelines Regular phone, email, and in-person conversations to discuss project updates, key issues and community consultation strategy (especially in light of Covid-19 restrictions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General project update before Scoping Report preparation.
DPIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meeting on 13 February to discuss the project prior to Scoping Report finalisation and lodgement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided preliminary feedback on site selection and constraints

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular phone and email conversations to discuss project updates, key issues and community consultation strategy (especially in light of Covid-19 restrictions) 	
Landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> discussions with directly affected landowners on commercial and land security issues via letters, phone calls and face-to-face meetings Negotiating and finalising formal land security contracts with host landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largely positive feedback with some landowners non-committal
Local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meeting at Gulgong RSL 29 August 2018 (43 attendees) meeting at Gulgong RSL 6 December 2018 (37 attendees) community information drop-in session on 28 October 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed feedback. Some near neighbours expressed concern about the visual change posed by the project, as well as construction and traffic noise, workforce and accommodation management
Ulan Mine, Wilpinjong Mine and Moolarben Mine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> discussions via email, phone and face-to-face meetings on the project in the second half of 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early stages discussion including potential for a transmission line through the mines. After project refinement, UPC did not need a transmission line to connect to the existing network (onsite connection)

Engagement with government agencies during preparation of the EIS

There is general support from government agencies, and local government for the project and the wider program of renewables in the region. A summary of the engagement activities undertaken with government agencies during preparation of the EIS is provided below.

Stakeholder	Engagement activities	Key consultation outcomes
Local government		
Mid-Western Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing emails/phone calls Face-to-face meetings on 4 February 2020, 29 October 2020 and 11 November 2020 Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation (Stages 1 and 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided a general update on the project including anticipated timeframes and the communication strategy Council assisted UPC to contact near neighbours who had not responded to previous communications A meeting was held on 29 October 2020 to discuss outcomes of the community information session and key issues to be addressed in the EIS, including traffic & access options. Refer to Annexure D for additional information. A meeting was held on 11 November to provide input into the workforce and accommodation strategy for the project
State government		

Stakeholder	Engagement activities	Key consultation outcomes
DPIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing emails/phone calls Face-to-face meetings on 13 February 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided a general update on the project including anticipated timeframes and the communication strategy Discussed extension of the Study Area to avoid more environmental and cultural value without increasing the project capacity On-going online meetings and phone calls to discuss progress on the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone
DPIE - BCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation (Stages 1 and 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal stakeholder list provided on 22 May 2020
Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation (Stages 1 and 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report for details on consultation undertaken
Office of The Registrar: Aboriginal Land Rights Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation (Stages 1 and 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report for details on consultation undertaken
Commonwealth government		
National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation (Stages 1 and 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided notification on 20 May 2020: <i>“Records held by the National Native Title Tribunal as of 20 May 2020 indicate that the identified parcels appear to be freehold, and freehold tenure extinguishes native title.”</i>
NSW Transmission Network Service Provider		
TransGrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email exchanges Telephone discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email sent on 10 November 2020 by UPC seeking permission to utilise existing TransGrid easement for site access and TransGrid response on 19 November. Refer to Annexure D for additional detail.

Associated landowners

UPC has been engaging with local landowners since 2018 regarding the project and potential impacts to land. Discussions with the associated “host” landowners focussed initially on the commercial aspects of the project and land security.

There are ten dwellings within two kilometres of the study area, three of which are associated with the project. The landowners associated with the project were approached by UPC initially and agreed to a commercial arrangement to lease or sell land to UPC to form the project study area and development footprint.

All associated landowners were accommodating in allowing the onsite surveys and assessments to be undertaken on and near their properties during the EIS and have been in regular contact with UPC through a dedicated landowner liaison manager within the company. Landowners were regularly asked to provide feedback, which was taken on board and resulted in several modifications to the plans and development footprint to accommodate their ongoing needs.

Neighbouring landowners

UPC made attempts to get in touch with all immediate project neighbours (those located within two kilometres of the study area) over a period of time and made reasonable efforts to provide information all immediate neighbours, as well as a large number of residents and farmers in the broader local area. The majority of neighbours who UPC were able to contact were engaged via a combination of meetings, telephone discussions, email, Facebook, and materials which were sent by post or email containing detailed information and maps.

Assistance was sought from Mid-Western Regional Council to contact any immediate neighbours who UPC had not heard from to ensure that letters and fact sheets about the project were being sent to the correct addresses. The Council-assisted mailout served to reach several key neighbours who had not received earlier correspondence, and which prompted some of them to contact UPC via the dedicated project hotline or email address.

Despite the Council-assisted mailout and UPC's best endeavours, several near neighbours did not get in touch with UPC. It is not known whether they did not receive the information or whether they chose not to provide feedback. However, continued efforts to get in touch with these landowners will be a priority throughout the ongoing EIS process and at later stages of the project.

Broader community engagement

The project website and Facebook page went live in April 2020 and were publicly available to the wider community. These were regularly updated to ensure community members were informed on the current stage of the project.

A community information drop-in session was held at the Country Women's Association Hall on Herbert Street, Gulgong on 28 October 2020 between 2pm and 7pm. The session was advertised in the Mudgee Guardian, Dunedoo District Diary, 2MG Radio Mudgee (10 on-air "read outs" in the lead up to the event), via a flyer on the community noticeboard at Stacks Gulgong, as well as updates on the project website and Facebook page advertising the session. Individual invitations to the information session were sent to everyone who had subscribed for project updates via the UPC website, as well as directly to near neighbours.

Five UPC representatives and two representatives from the planning consultants (Ramboll) attended the information session. Covid-19 restrictions in place in NSW at the time were strictly observed during the session.

Throughout the day, approximately 40 people attended to review the information provided, ask questions, and give feedback to the project team. The discussion focussed on the benefits of renewable energy, employment opportunities for local workers and businesses as well as potential visual impact from the solar panels, the proposed environmental exclusion zone and traffic flows and access routes. Feedback from the session has been considered in this EIS.

Response to feedback

As a result of feedback received at the information session, further workforce and accommodation availability assessment has been included in this EIS (refer to Chapter x). This involved several desktop studies and further consultation with Mid-Western Regional Council, NSW TAFE and other training and recruitment and hospitality specialists. The purpose of the assessment was to determine the skills capabilities in the local and regional workforce and potential training requirements to help provide more employment opportunities for local workers and businesses. In addition, an assessment of accommodation requirements has also been conducted for construction workforce.

It was also raised during the feedback session that the original option to access the project site from the western boundary via Black Lead Lane and Barneys Reef Road would impact dwellings and create additional traffic in and around the Gulgong Town Centre during construction. As a result, this option was refined to be used for occasional emergency traffic only.

Consultation register

A summary of consultation with neighbouring residents (those with a dwelling within 2km of the Study Area) is shown below and corresponds with the map at Appendix A which has been redacted to ensure the privacy of those involved.

Landowner	Consultation
R1	Associated landowner – regular & ongoing consultation
R2	Associated landowner – regular & ongoing consultation
R3	Associated landowner – regular & ongoing consultation
R4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter sent on 29 April 2020 containing a project summary, contact information, and a detailed fact sheet • Letter sent on or about 19 August 2020 by Mid-Western Regional Council (on behalf of UPC) containing a project summary, contact information, and a detailed fact sheet. Council assistance was requested as UPC had not been able to contact the landowner.
R5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter sent on 29 April 2020 containing a project summary, contact information, and a detailed fact sheet • Letter sent on or about 19 August 2020 by Mid-Western Regional Council (on behalf of UPC) containing a project summary, contact information, and a detailed fact sheet. Council assistance was requested as UPC had not been able to contact the landowner.
R6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter sent on 29 April 2020 containing a project summary, contact information, and a detailed fact sheet • Letter sent on or about 19 August 2020 by Mid-Western Regional Council (on behalf of UPC) containing a project summary, contact information, and a detailed fact sheet. Council assistance was requested as UPC had not been able to contact the landowner. • Telephone conversations discussing potential concerns around electro-magnetic interference with radio infrastructure • Attendance of Community Information Session and discussion with UPC representatives, including feedback on proposed traffic routes to the west of the project site
R7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter sent on 29 April 2020 containing a project summary, contact information, and a detailed fact sheet • Letter sent on or about 19 August 2020 by Mid-Western Regional Council (on behalf of UPC) containing a project summary, contact information, and a detailed fact sheet. Council assistance was requested as UPC had not been able to contact the landowner. • Brief telephone conversation to establish line of communication and encourage ongoing feedback.
R8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter sent on 29 April 2020 containing a project summary, contact information, and a detailed fact sheet • Letter sent on or about 19 August 2020 by Mid-Western Regional Council (on behalf of UPC) containing a project summary, contact information, and a detailed fact sheet. Council assistance was requested as UPC had not been able to contact the landowner.
R9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter sent on 29 April 2020 containing a project summary, contact information, and a detailed fact sheet • Letter sent on or about 19 August 2020 by Mid-Western Regional Council (on behalf of UPC) containing a project summary, contact

	information, and a detailed fact sheet. Council assistance was requested as UPC had not been able to contact the landowner.
R10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter sent on 29 April 2020 containing a project summary, contact information, and a detailed fact sheet • Letter sent on or about 19 August 2020 by Mid-Western Regional Council (on behalf of UPC) containing a project summary, contact information, and a detailed fact sheet. Council assistance was requested as UPC had not been able to contact the landowner.

UPC emphasises that additional engagement with local landowners, particularly owners of neighbouring and nearby farming blocks, was undertaken with diligence. A detailed register of this activity is available but is not included in this report for privacy reasons.

4 CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

As part of UPC's consultation process, nearby residents and the community were encouraged to provide feedback about the project. Where feedback was provided, UPC took time to listen, and to the extent possible, address specific concerns in the design of the project.

4.1 Potential Issues identified by stakeholders

Some issues which were identified by stakeholders, and in particular community members, relate to the project but also to broader issues around renewable development in regional areas. In the interests of transparency, they are noted below and include:

- The cumulative effects of future development in the area associated with the NSW Government's Central West Orana REZ;
- Amenity impacts such as noise, dust and truck movements associated with construction;
- Social impact of construction workforce such as impacts on housing & accommodation availability, local hires and a perceived lack of availability of tradespeople, and social impacts associated with large volumes of workers from other areas on local towns;
- Visual amenity, including visual change from neighbouring farmland;
- Temporary loss of productive agricultural land;
- Permanent reduction in the productivity of the agricultural land following decommissioning;
- Changes to the community values of the region, specifically in Gulgong relating to non-Aboriginal heritage, as a result of the potential for influx of non-local hires; and
- Community economic benefit including direct and indirect local job opportunities.

4.2 Community feedback and matters raised

Issue	Matters raised	UPC response
Land use	Most farmers in the area considered the continued agricultural use of the land to be of high importance.	UPC engaged with host landowners and have a contractual obligation to trial sheep grazing as the preferred form of managing the vegetation within the solar farm.
Landscape character and visual amenity	Some parties expressed concern about visual change from neighbouring farming blocks.	UPC made changes to the layout to address this concern. UPC prioritised addressing visual impacts on nearby dwellings by speaking to neighbours and conducting viewshed analysis. The visual impact assessment in the EIS shows that no significant visual impacts are expected on neighbouring dwellings.
Traffic and transport	Members of the local community expressed concern about a proposed traffic route which incorporated Black Lead Lane and continued up the Barneys Reef Road to access the site from the west. There were legitimate concerns about the impacts from heavy	This option was refined to be used for emergency traffic only. This has been taken into consideration in the traffic impact assessment contained in the EIS.

Issue	Matters raised	UPC response
	vehicles moving in close proximity to Gulgong town.	
Socio-economic	Members of the local community communicated that previous solar farms in the area had resulted in skilled worker and accommodation shortages in town.	Further workforce and accommodation availability has been included in the social impact assessment contained in the EIS.
Localised climate effects	One near neighbour expressed concern about the “heat island” effect, which is where the residual heat from solar panels allegedly increases the ambient temperature of the local area.	UPC provided an independent report examining the heat island effect. The report recommended that an infrastructure setback of 30 m from the shared boundary would mitigate the apparent heat island effect. UPC notes that the shared boundary with the concerned landowner has a infrastructure setback of greater than 30m due to an environmental exclusion zone for a watercourse & native vegetation

5 CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

UPC has developed and executed a comprehensive consultation and engagement strategy which is aligned to project milestones. An outline of this strategy is contained in the table below.

Phase	Action	Stakeholders	Status (as at November 2020)
EIS development - pre-lodgement	Meetings Presentations Drop in session Media release and liaison Project email address Website Letterbox drop Feedback collation and mitigation options	Community Landowners Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) Council Government depts Neighbours Media	Completed
EIS public exhibition and determination	During public exhibition, UPC will be available to answer questions or concerns from the community, but will avoid interfering with the Department's Public Exhibition activities. UPC will respond to all Public submissions made during the Public Exhibition stage ('Response to Submission' report to be submitted to DPIE)	Community Neighbours Landowners	To be completed
Pre-construction	Letters Letterbox drop status update Support to landowner team Presentations	Community Neighbours Landowners Council	To be completed
Construction and commissioning	Local consultation with landowners and neighbours Local liaison Council Establish a complaints register, including reporting and investigating procedures & timelines, and liaison with Council Create a public hotline for rapid notification of complaints FAQs Drop in session Letters Letterbox drop status update Support to landowner team	Community Neighbours Landowners Council	To be completed

5.1 Continuous engagement strategy

UPC is committed to continue community and stakeholder engagement practices throughout the EIS process and as the project enters the construction phase.

UPC will continue to engage with both Council and the relevant NSW Government agencies to seek feedback on the development of management plans and strategies as the project moves from development into pre-construction, construction and operational phases.

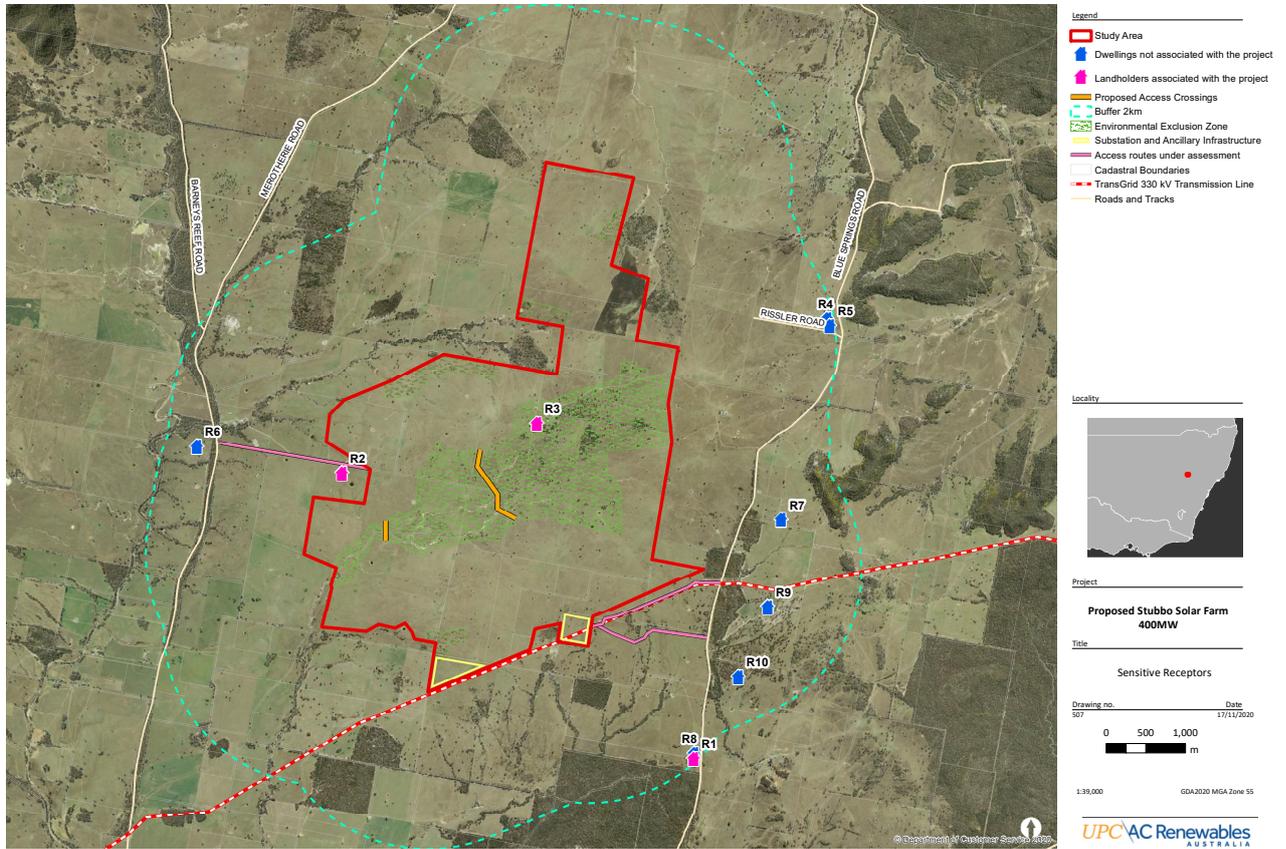
Further, host landowners, neighbours and the wider community will regularly be provided with information in a transparent and open manner, and feedback will be sought where appropriate as further detailed design progresses.

The project email address and hotline will remain in place, and UPC representatives will continue to take responsibility for addressing feedback and concerns as and when they arise. To this end, UPC representatives will be regularly stationed on-site and in the local area, and will be available to meet with the community and local stakeholders (subject to continued COVID-19 travel restrictions).

In addition, project updates will continue to be posted on the website and Facebook page, and mailed to the project mailing list, as key milestones are reached. This will be managed in the same transparent manner which UPC has adopted in its engagement practices to date.

Appendix A

Map of nearby dwellings (redacted for privacy)



Appendix B

**Posters & Fact Sheets from Community Information Session on
28 October 2020**



Stubbo Solar Farm

Farming and renewable energy working together

Stubbo Solar Farm Overview

About the project

Stubbo Solar Farm is a 400-megawatt (MW) renewable energy generator that is being proposed across a 1,750-hectare study area of mostly cleared sheep grazing land.

The gently undulating land across the site will allow rows of photovoltaic panels to be installed with enough height and space for sheep to graze in and around the panels.

The solar farm will produce about one million megawatt hours of electricity each year, enough energy to power 150,000 typical NSW homes. It will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 600,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year, equivalent to taking 190,000 cars off the road.

The technical and economic feasibility of a battery energy storage system is being investigated as part of the project to help provide power on demand and to help maintain the stability of the local electricity network. The solar farm can connect to the existing 330kV electricity transmission network.

Project Site

The solar farm will be situated in the locality of Stubbo about 10 kilometres north of the historic mining town of Gulgong in the Mid-Western Regional Local Council LGA.

The project site is located between Blue Springs Rd and Barneys Reef Rd and is in the centre of the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone recently identified by the NSW Government.

The site is located across the traditional land of the Warrabinga-Wiradjuri people who have maintained a close connection to the region for thousands of generations.

The study area is about 1,750 hectares, however the actual development footprint is expected to be about 1,200 hectares, with much of the remaining area set aside as environmental exclusion zones to protect vegetation, waterways and Aboriginal sites.

Any potential visual impact from the solar farm will be reduced due to the local topography of the site and the surrounding vegetation. Where there is any visual change, we are keen to work with our neighbours to reduce any impact and find a solution that benefits them and the solar farm.

Current farming practices such as sheep grazing can continue under and between the solar arrays, continuing the region's close agricultural connection with the land.

About UPC AC Renewables Australia

UPC AC Renewables Australia is operated as a joint venture between AC Energy and the UPC Renewables Group which has been operating in Australia for three and a half years and directly employs 30 full time employees. It is developing a portfolio of Australian renewable energy projects, which include:

- New England Solar Farm in regional NSW, which has already received development approval from the NSW government, independent planning commission and transmission connection agreements (720MW)
- The 800 MW Valley of the Winds project near Coolah, NSW. The project is in the planning phase.
- Baroota Pumped Hydro Project (250MW) and Bridle Track Solar Project in South Australia (300MW)
- Axedale Solar Farm in Victoria (160MW); and
- Robbins Island Renewable Energy Park and Jim's Plain Renewable Energy Park in North West Tasmania (1,000-1,200MW), a key project for the Marinus Link and Battery of the Nation Project.

AC Energy and the UPC Renewables Group are long-time investment partners in Asia, with a successful track record of operating renewable energy projects in the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam, and projects in development in Vietnam, India, Korea, and Taiwan.





Stubbo Solar Farm

Farming and renewable energy working together

Project Benefits

Supporting the community. Growing the economy. Powering the country.

The Stubbo Solar Farm project is expected to create up to 400 jobs during a two-year construction period. It is also expected to generate up to 10 ongoing jobs over the operational life of the project.

It will create opportunities for local businesses, suppliers and contractors who have the right skills to work with us on the project.

The project will be designed to allow sheep grazing alongside renewable energy generation, helping to drought proof local farming operations and grow the local and regional economy.

It will help diversify income for local landholders as well as local businesses and suppliers, which is particularly important to the health of local economies and communities when climatic conditions may impact their operations.

We will work with the community to create a Community Benefit Fund that supports projects conceived by members of the local community for the benefit of their community.

The Stubbo solar farm will also make a significant contribution to reducing the country's greenhouse gas emissions and helping to meet international, national, and NSW climate change targets.



Create 400 construction jobs and 10 ongoing jobs

Work opportunities for local businesses, workers, and suppliers

Rental income for project landowners



Community Benefit Fund
Agricultural production to continue on site

Support new growth industry



Enough clean renewable energy to power 150,000 homes

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 600,000 tonnes a year

Battery energy storage system to help provide power during peak periods



Stubbo Solar Farm

Farming and renewable energy working together

The Planning Process

How is the project assessed

The project will be assessed as a State Significant Development under Part 4 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is the state planning authority for the project.

Assessment steps

A scoping report for the project has been submitted to the DPIE, outlining the project as well as a preliminary environmental impact assessment.

The Department has issued the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the project. A range of assessments are being carried out in line with these requirements, together making up the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. The EIS will cover all facets of the project impact, from environmental through to social.

The EIS is on track to be lodged before the end of the year and will be on public exhibition in early 2021.

The project will also comply with the Federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act).

Understanding your views

We have been discussing the project with the host landowners and the wider community to help us gain a detailed understanding of the community's views, issues and feedback on the project.

This includes the local council, their elected representatives, Members of Parliament and State and Federal Government agencies. We are also discussing the project with representatives of the traditional indigenous owners of the land the Warrabinga-Wiradjuri people to help us understand, manage and protect any cultural heritage areas or items of significance across the project site.

This will help us improve the project and wherever possible make changes based on this feedback.

You can continue to provide feedback on the project via several channels:

 www.stubbosolarfarm.com.au

 stubbo@upc-ac.com

 [@stubbosolarfarm](https://www.instagram.com/stubbosolarfarm)

 1800 571 185

Project timeline

Scoping report
completed

Complete



Consultation
and preparation
of planning
documents

Ongoing



Development
consent



Design and
engineering



Construction





Stubbo Solar Farm

Farming and renewable energy working together

Project Assessments

Proposed solar farm layout

The solar farm will be built over a 1,200-hectare portion of the 1,750-hectare study area. It will include rows of solar panels, electrical infrastructure such as inverters, a substation, cables and the battery system, access roads and other association infrastructure such as storage and maintenance facilities.

The design will allow for space for sheep to graze in between the rows of solar panels and to avoid and conserve a large area of native vegetation between in the middle of the site.

Bushfires safety

A comprehensive Bushfire Risk Assessment is being undertaken as part of project application to ensure it reduces any potential fire risk or hazard. A further fire management plan will be developed for the construction period.

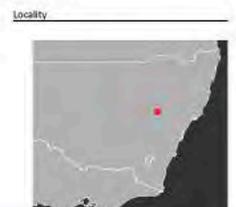
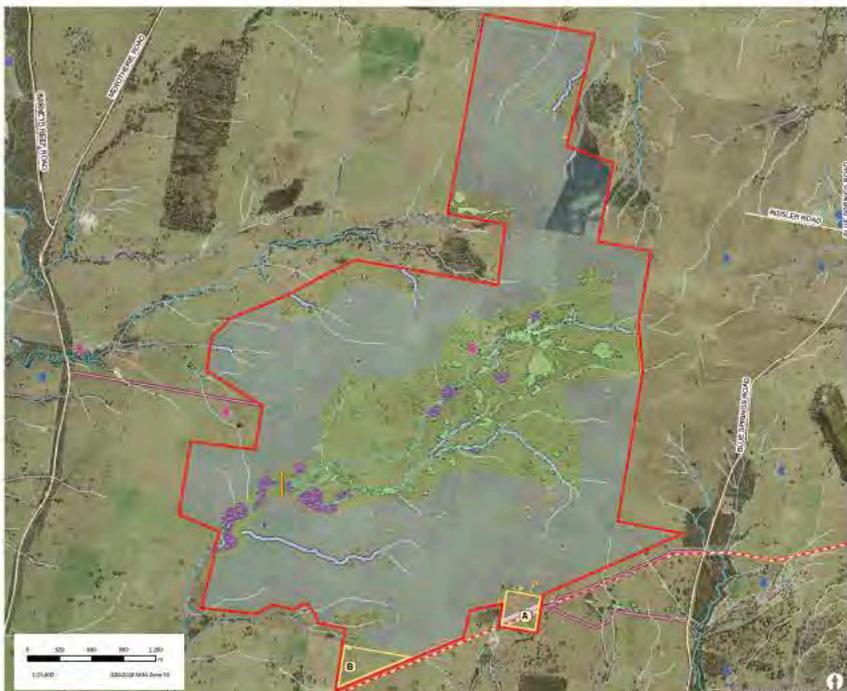
Visual impact

A detailed visual assessment has been carried out as part of the EIS process and has contributed to the indicative layout and proposed design of the solar farm.

Where there is any visual change, we are keen to work with our neighbours to reduce any impact and find a solution that benefits them and the solar farm.

Environmental protection

The proposed layout of the solar farm has been designed into two sections either side of a large section of native bushland. The area will form an exclusion zone to protect vegetation, waterways and Aboriginal sites.





Stubbo Solar Farm

Farming and renewable energy working together

Project Assessments

A range of assessments are being undertaken by several qualified specialists as part of the development of the EIS.

Biodiversity

UPC has committed to avoid all Commonwealth matters of environmental significance under the EPBC Act - Box-Gum Woodland (BGW) community.

For instance, we have:

- Extended the environmental exclusion zone to include a patch of BGW; and
- Designed a new access track off Blue Springs Road to avoid a patch of BGW

We have also optimised the development footprint to avoid as many trees as practicable and have extended the environmental exclusion zone and created new exclusion areas along the project boundaries.

Detailed field work and observations have been undertaken to help map biodiversity on the proposed solar farm site. Desktop modelling and research has also helped to understand the environmental assets and steps required to avoid or protect them.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

We have been working with eight Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) who have assisted and guided field work and surveys with local archaeologists. This has helped us understand the cultural value of the site and understand the RAPs expectations in the management of archaeological findings.

The project will avoid all Aboriginal sites, except one artefact to be salvaged before construction commences. The RAPs will remain involved throughout the development process as well as construction stage.

Noise

The impact of noise during the construction and operation phase of the solar farm development impacts will be assessed as part of the EIS phase. Most dwellings are located more than 2km away from the project boundaries.

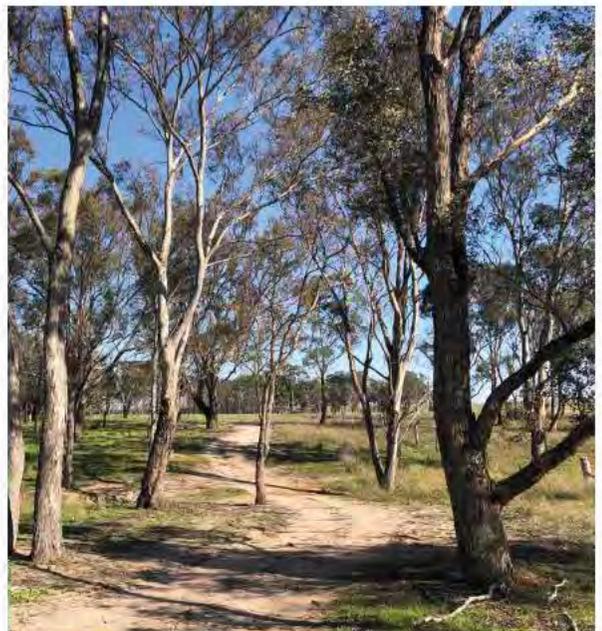
Traffic

We understand traffic on local roads, particularly heavy vehicles during construction, can have an impact on local communities. We have been assessing direct and consequential impacts of operational and construction traffic vehicles associated with the solar farm and ways to reduce and mitigate impacts on the local community.

Most existing roads and intersections are suited for construction traffic; however some minor intersection upgrades may be required.

Hydrology

The potential impact of the solar farm on local riparian waterways has also been assessed during the EIS development. Other hydrology issues to be investigated also include the potential impact of run off from the development. A specialist hydrology report is being prepared to understand these potential impacts. The development footprint will avoid all areas of significant water depths and velocity for the 100 year event (1% ARI).





Stubbo Solar Farm

Farming and renewable energy working together

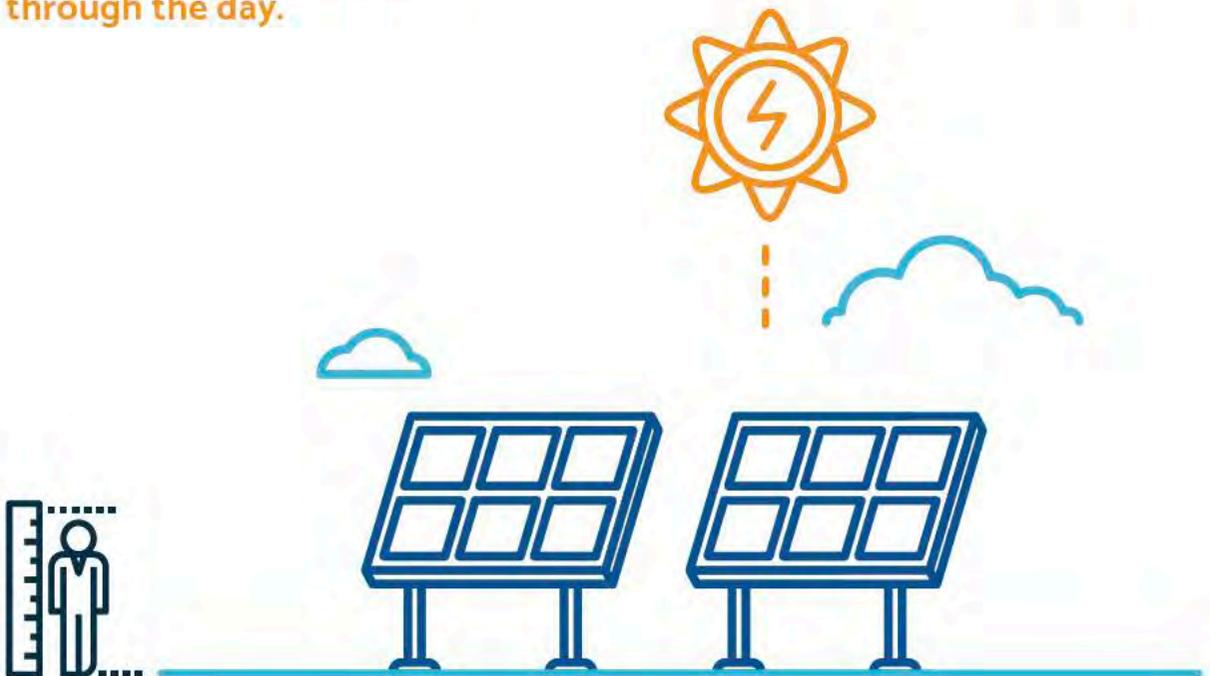
Project Technology

This clean energy project will utilise solar photovoltaic (PV) panels similar to those used on rooftops around Australia. The PV panels will be arranged in rows spaced several metres apart, on a single axis tracking system. The solar panels will follow or 'track' the movement of the sun through the day.

Based on preliminary designs, the Stubbo Solar Farm will involve:

1. two separate arrays of PV modules (separated by an environmental conservation area and creek), including inverters and an underground cable network
2. an on-site dedicated solar farm substation to connect the project to Transgrid's electricity transmission network, several access points from the local road network and internal access tracks
3. stock-proof security fencing around each of the solar fields to enable safe grazing for livestock such as sheep

UPC is also investigating a battery energy storage system as part of its technical studies. Solar combined with battery storage will form a major component of Australia's mix of energy generation in the future.



Stubbo Solar Farm

Farming and renewable energy working together

Construction

Construction of the Stubbo Solar Farm will take up to two years and will be expected to require a peak workforce of up to 400 people.

Construction process

- 1 Construction permits and management plans in place 
- 2 Mobilise to site
- 3 Embed piles 
- 4 Install tracker beams
- 5 Secure modules to tracker beams 
- 6 Install inverter blocks
- 7 Complete substation augmentation 
- 8 Test and commission the plant

Once construction is complete, the Stubbo Solar Farm will be operational for up to 30 years. During this time, a rigorous operations and maintenance regime will be followed to ensure the efficient and reliable operation of the plant and to make sure that the solar farm is a good neighbour to all.



Hours of operation during construction

During the construction period, the core hours of onsite activity are usually between 7am and 5pm each weekday. We may need to undertake some work on Saturdays from time to time. Operating hours on a Saturday will be 9am to 5pm unless otherwise advised.



Construction noise

During construction, noise may be generated by heavy vehicle movements and construction activities including the installation of piles to provide support for the mounting framework required for the PV modules. A noise curfew will be enforced in order to minimise disturbance to nearby residents.



Dust

We will use dust suppression where necessary to minimise dust leaving the project site.



Road network

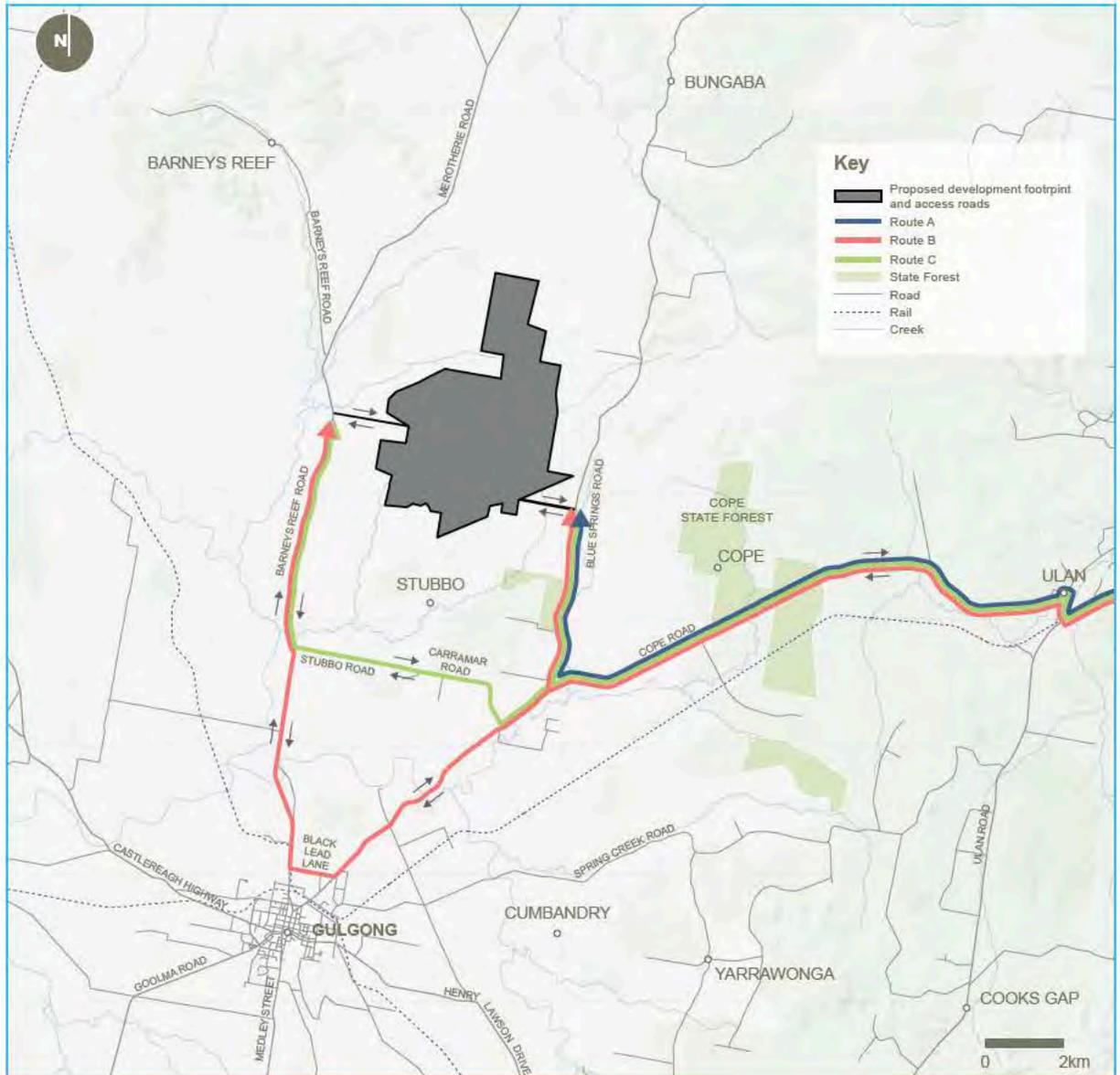
Construction materials and infrastructure will be transported to the site via the local and regional road network on semi-trailers and B-double trucks. There may also be oversized vehicle movements for the delivery of high voltage transformers. We will provide community information on major deliveries that may cause traffic congestion or delays.



Stubbo Solar Farm

Farming and renewable energy working together

Proposed Construction Traffic Routes



Fact sheet

April 2020 | www.stubbosolarfarm.com.au

Farming and renewable energy working together

Stubbo Solar Farm is a proposed 400-megawatt (MW) renewable energy generator situated 10 kilometres north of the historic mining town of Gulgong, in the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

The land involved in the proposed site has been used for sheep grazing for much of the past 150 years. If approved, the project will see rows of photovoltaic (PV) panels installed on trackers mounted on the ground and spaced 5 to 12 metres apart.

Increasing experience in NSW with co-location of sheep grazing and solar farms suggests the vegetation cover across the site will recover quickly once construction is completed. This will provide ample opportunity for sheep grazing, maintaining the region's close agricultural connection to the land and also helping to manage the costs of maintaining the site.

About the proposal

The 400MW solar farm will produce about one million megawatt hours of clean renewable electricity each year, enough energy to power 150,000 typical NSW homes. It will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 600,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year, equivalent to taking 190,000 cars off the road.

The proposed development is located across two areas that are separated by a large parcel of native bushland and minor



local waterways, which are to be retained and avoided.

The potential visual impact from the solar farm on neighbours will be minimised due to the topography of the site, the surrounding vegetation and the distance to nearby dwellings. Where there is any visual change, we are keen to work with our neighbours to reduce any impact and find a solution that benefits them and the solar farm.

The project is expected to create about 400 construction jobs over a two year period and up to ten long-term jobs over the life of the project. It will also create business and contracting opportunities for local businesses and suppliers.

The project is being proposed by UPC\AC Renewables Australia and is in the early planning stage. ■

Fact sheet

Project facts



400 construction jobs over a two year period and up to 10 jobs over the life of the project.



Single axis tracking technology, and new electrical substation connecting to an existing transmission line.



Capable of producing one million megawatt hours of clean renewable energy, enough to power 150,000 homes and deliver more than 600,000 tonnes of annual CO₂ reduction.

Project benefits



Local workers, businesses and suppliers will be prioritised for work opportunities where possible.



Agricultural production to continue on site.



Development of community benefit sharing program.



Battery storage being investigated to supply power during high demand periods and help stabilise the electricity network.



Helps place downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices.



Helps meet state and federal climate change targets and Australia's international obligations.

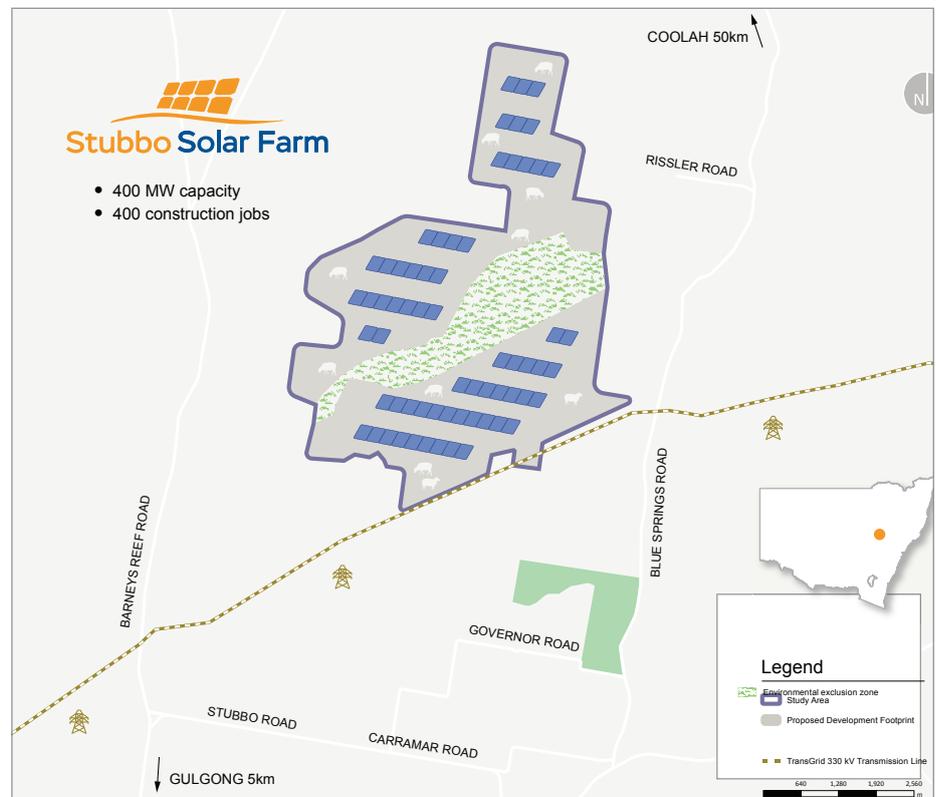


Project site

Stubbo is a small locality located north east of Gulgong and about 115 kilometres east of Dubbo. It is situated in the Central Western Tablelands Region of NSW, within the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

The project site is located between Blue Springs Road and Barneys Reef Road and is in the centre of the Central West Renewable Energy Zone, recently identified by the NSW Government. It consists of mostly cleared grazing land.

The site is located across the traditional land of the Warrabinga-Wiradjuri people who have maintained a close connection to the region for thousands of generations. ■



Solar photovoltaic technology

Stubbo Solar Farm will consist of ground-mounted solar (PV) modules or panels that are made up of silicon-based solar cells. The cells convert sunlight into Direct Current (DC) energy that is converted to Alternating Current (AC) using inverters.

The electrical current is then transported via underground cables to an electricity substation and injected into the main electricity grid via an existing transmission line.

The rows of panels will be installed on a single axis tracking system that follows

the path of the sun, allowing for the maximisation of solar energy production across the site. An energy battery storage system is also being investigated as part of the project. ■

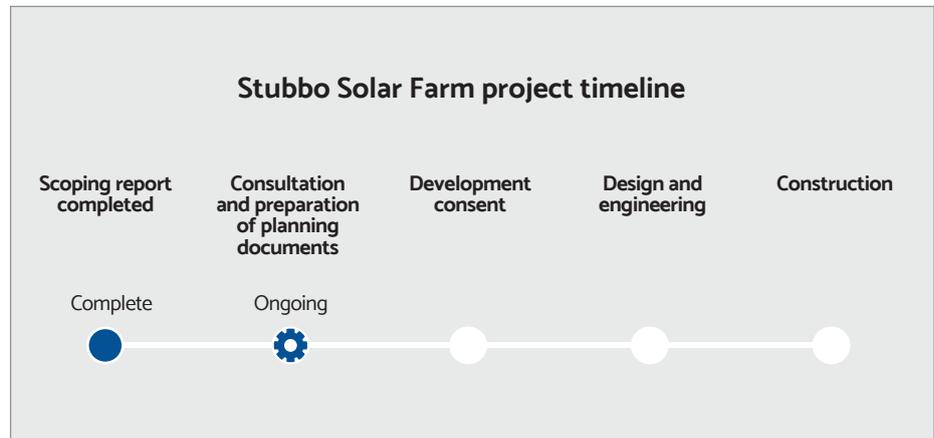


Environmental planning process

Stubbo Solar Farm is in the early stage of planning. It will be assessed as a State Significant Development under Part 4 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is the state planning authority for the project. A scoping report for the project has been submitted to the Department, outlining the project, including a preliminary environmental impact assessment.

The Department has published the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the project. A range of assessments will be carried out in line with these requirements, together making up the



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. The EIS will cover all facets of the project impacts, from environmental through to social, as well as its benefits.

The project will also comply with the Federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act). ■

Community consultation

UPC\AC Renewables Australia places a large emphasis wherever possible on face-to-face communication via one-on-one meetings and community information drop-in sessions. However, the recently introduced NSW Government mandated measures for social distancing to minimise the potential spread and impact of the coronavirus means we will have to revise our methods of engagement and communication in the short to medium term. This may include

more telephone conversations, discussions via online channels and more direct mail or newsletter communications.

We will be working closely with the near neighbours to the project and the wider community to help us gain a detailed understanding of the community's views, issues and feedback on the project.

We will be discussing the project with the local council, its elected representatives, Members of Parliament and State and Federal

Government agencies. We also engage with representatives of the traditional indigenous owners of the land, the Warrabinga-Wiradjuri people, to help us understand, manage and protect any cultural heritage areas or items of significance across the project site.

Our scoping report includes an early outline of our proposed engagement. We will look to continually improve and grow our engagement methods as we learn more from the local community. ■



Register for project updates

Members of the local community can provide feedback, ask questions and register for our regular project updates via our website or by email.

Phone: **1800 571 185**

Email: stubbo@upc-ac.com

Facebook: [@stubbosolarfarm](https://www.facebook.com/@stubbosolarfarm)

www.stubbosolarfarm.com.au

UPC\AC Renewables
AUSTRALIA

Appendix C

Public advertisement materials



Stubbo Solar Farm

Farming and renewable energy working together

Community Information Drop-in Session

28 October 2020 | stubbosolarfarm.com.au

You're invited to a community information drop-in session for the Stubbo Solar Farm.

Drop in at any time during the session to meet the project team, ask questions, and find out more about the project.

Project description

Stubbo Solar Farm is a 400-megawatt (MW) renewable energy project that is being proposed across cleared grazing land 10km north of Gulgong.

The project is expected to create up to 400 jobs during construction, opportunities for local businesses and contractors, and up to 10 ongoing jobs throughout its operational life. Once operational, sheep can continue to graze around the rows of solar panels.

The project is being proposed by UPC\AC Renewables Australia, an experienced renewable energy developer, with a large portfolio of clean energy projects in development across NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

anytime
2pm-7pm
28 OCT
2020

When

Wednesday October 28
anytime from
2pm-7pm

Where

CWA Hall
on **Herbert Street,**
Gulgong

More information at stubbosolarfarm.com.au or [f @stubbosolarfarm](https://www.facebook.com/stubbosolarfarm)

Appendix D

Relevant email exchanges

Subject: RE: 2020-194 - Stubbo Solar Farm - proposed access route via TransGrid's easement
Date: Monday, 16 November 2020 at 3:17:31 pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time
From: Easements&Development
To: 'Cedric.Berge@upc-ac.com'
Attachments: image001.png, STSF-503B - Project Layout_Work.pdf, TransGrid Easement Guidelines.pdf, TransGrid Fencing Guidelines.pdf

Hi Cedric,

TransGrid Reference Number: 2020-194

Stubbo Solar Farm - proposed access route via TransGrid's easement

Thank you for your email and we apologise for the delay.

We are currently discussing the below request internally and will provide further advice to UPC AC Renewables shortly.

For preliminary advice, please find attached a copy of *TransGrid's Easement and Fencing Guidelines*.

If you have any questions in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact TransGrid.

Kind regards,

Skye Shanahan

Property Services Coordinator | Network Planning and Operations

TransGrid | 200 Old Wallgrove Road, Wallgrove, NSW, 2766

T: (02) 9620 0104

E: Skye.Shanahan@transgrid.com.au **W:** www.transgrid.com.au

From: Cédric Bergé <Cedric.Berge@upc-ac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 10 November 2020 10:49 AM
To: Easements&Development <Easements&Development@transgrid.com.au>
Subject: Stubbo Solar Farm - proposed access route via TransGrid's easement

Dear Sir/Madam,

UPC\AC Renewables Australia is currently developing the Stubbo Solar Farm approx.. 10km north of Gulgong, in the Central West Orana region of NSW. The 400MW large-scale utility project would connect directly to the **existing 330kV line #79** via a new substation located within the project's boundaries. We are currently working with TransGrid on a connection application (FIA stage) and with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on a Development Application (EIS).

As part of the EIS studies, we are assessing the best access options from public roads. The indicative Project Layout map attached to this email shows the 3 options we are assessing (*'Access routes under assessment'*). One of them is located to the Southeast of our Study Area and would use the existing track within TransGrid's easement of both the 330kV and the 132kV lines. The access traverses **Lot 24 in DP 502960** and **Lot 68&69 in DP 750765** and connects Blue Springs Road to one of our proposed Substation areas.

The proposed access would consist of:

- An upgraded intersection with Blue Springs Road to accommodate construction traffic, in consultation with Mid-Western Regional Council and TransGrid,
- An upgraded all-weather track (up to 10 metres wide or as required by TransGrid) to the solar farm substation in accordance with TransGrid's requirements (note: TransGrid will be able to access the solar farm substation),
- Potential for gates in accordance with TransGrid's requirements,
- No other solar farm infrastructure would be proposed within the easement, unless specifically required by TransGrid.

UPC understands TransGrid will be consulted as part of the EIS assessment: if we nominated this access in our EIS, the Development Consent would include provision to use this easement. In the meantime, we would like to understand TransGrid's view on using a portion of the easement to access our solar farm and its substation. Can you please confirm. Can you please confirm TransGrid would be happy for UPC to include this proposed access in our EIS?

Please let me know if you need more information about this easement or our proposal.

Kind regards,

Cédric Bergé | Project Development Manager
UPC\AC Renewables Australia
A UPC Renewables and AC Energy Company



M: [+61 447 033 404](tel:+61447033404)

E: cedric.berge@upc-ac.com

Hobart: Suite 2, Level 2, 13-17 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, TAS, 7004

www.upc-ac.com

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"COVID-19 UPDATE: TransGrid office personnel have transitioned to working remotely, staying home to keep our people and community safe while working to ensure that we continue to provide the support you need during these uncertain times. We appreciate staying connected is important so while face-to-face meetings have been suspended due to physical distancing requirements, we offer other ways for you to contact us, meet with us and access the people, information and resources you require." Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Subject: FW: Stubbo Solar Farm - Traffic and Access considerations for your comments
Date: Wednesday, 4 November 2020 at 4:28:56 pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time
From: Julie Robertson
To: Garry Hemsworth, David Webster
CC: Cédric Bergé
Attachments: image001.png, Stubbo Solar Farm EIS - traffic assessment summary for Council_v1[1].docx

Hi Garry and Dave,

Please see below from Cedric following last week's meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact him directly if you wish to discuss or meet on site.

Kind regards,
Julie

From: Cédric Bergé <Cedric.Berge@upc-ac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 4 November 2020 3:53 PM
To: Julie Robertson <Julie.Robertson@midwestern.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Stubbo Solar Farm - Traffic and Access considerations for your comments

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Hi Julie,

Thanks for your time last week, it was very helpful to meet with you, the engineers and the mayor. We are currently working on many aspects we discussed on Thursday, including a strategy to assess local workforce. I will get back to you in a different email in the next day or so about this specific topic.

As discussed with your engineers, our consultants have prepared a brief memo that summarises the key issues to be addressed in the Traffic Impact Assessment (technical document attached to the EIS). While the TIA is not finalised yet, the attached memo should contain all the information Council's engineers need to provide feedback and comments.

I am in Mudgee all this week and next week, and I am available to accompany one of your engineers on site to check access roads and intersections.

We currently finalising the EIS and we expect to lodge no later than 20th of November. We would greatly appreciate if the engineers could provide their feedback before we lodge the EIS.

Please let me know if you have any question regarding this document.

Regards,

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